

COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT FDJ Para-military Training

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO

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1. On orders of the SED Central Committee and the FDJ Central Council a large number of instructors was appointed during the Easter holidays in the Soviet Zone of Germany to examine lists of youths of the 1928 through 1934 classes at the municipal and communal offices for FDJ members.
2. The FDJ members were summoned to appear at the offices of the Buergermeister where they were asked by instructors whether they were prepared to volunteer for paramilitary training. The instructors said that the youths would not receive training for employment with the Volkspolizei, but would be given the opportunity to make more money after receiving training than they could make in their present jobs.
3. The action which came as a surprise action and was started without any previous announcement lasted for several days. The Buergermeister as well as their employees had to be available to the instructors even during the holidays and their off-duty hours.
4. The result of the action allegedly was rather negative. The youths were bitter and angry when being interrogated, especially as almost simultaneously, or only a short time previously, many youths had been discharged from enterprises and offices, allegedly because of a shortage of material and lack of work. \*

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\* [REDACTED] Comment. With no information of a similar type available, the credibility of the information contained in the present report cannot be rated. However, a certain degree of confirmation may exist in the fact that information concerning the paramilitary training of the FDJ in the Soviet Zone of Germany became known from newspaper dispatches and statements by a prominent functionary of the Volkspolizei. A functionary of the Volkspolizei Main Department for Equipment disclosed that since about mid-April 1952 a secret order was revealed to the Volkspolizei, stating that the activation of a national army should so be sped up in the Soviet Zone of Germany and that its establishment could be made public immediately after the signing of the contractual agreement. A special recruiting campaign would then be conducted to replenish with enthusiastic volunteers and bring to full strength the existing cadres. These preparations were also made in cooperation with FDJ leadership. The

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Muenchener Merkur No 111 dated 8 May 1952 quoted the Junge Welt, central organ of the FDJ, as stating that increasing numbers of FDJ members signed up for service with the armed units of the Volkspolizei. The Informationsdienst West, on 22 April 1952, reported that an appeal by the FDJ Central Council made it the duty of all youths to be available to help defend peace in the event of an attack against the German Democratic Republic.

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